

"I know my own heart," said Carradine, "and I know the heart of the girl close to me. I know her cheek, but she does not know mine. There never was love on my side; and on his—well, money is more than love—with some natures. I do not wish to blame him."

Carradine's grasp tightened on her hands.

"Lilla," he said, "once your answer put her between us, when I spoke words that were surprising to all of us, my heart would be so now if I should say them once more? My love, my life, will you come to me?"

"Will I come?" she repeated, looking up in his eyes and drawing nearer, until his arms silently folded about her.